BY I. V. BLUM,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.—Old rates for such country produce as we need, at

For Six months, $10 00
For Three months, 5 00

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

PEOPLE'S PRESS.

SALEM, N. C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1865.

Another Change of Terms.

Owing to surrounding circumstances, we are again compelled to increase the subscription price of this paper, which will be hereafter as follows:

For six months, $10 00
For three months, 5 00

Or at old rates previous to the war, for such produce as we need.

The Peace Movement.

As we feared, the late peace movement has amounted, directly, to nothing at all, so far as a cessation of hostilities and the restoration of blessed peace is concerned. Our Commissioners only proceeded as far as Fortress Monroe, where they were met by Lincoln and Seward, and an interview took place in regard to the subject of their mission, after which our Commissioners returned to Richmond. Judging from the meagre dispatch received, all hopes of negotiation are at an end, for the present, as our authorities will not consent to Lincoln's terms of peace, which are said to be substantially as follows:

Unconditional submission to the Constitution and Laws of the United States. Our Commissioners were informed, by Lincoln, that the slavery question had been disposed of by the action of the Federal Congress adopting the proposed amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in the United States.

We await the official statement of our Commissioners, which was to have been laid before Congress on Monday, and which may change the aspect of affairs, we hope.

Already, in the Legislature, on Monday, Mr. Person, a leading original secessionist and extreme war man, made use of the occasion, "in hot haste," to introduce Resolutions, substantially, for fighting to the bitter end, until our independence is fully achieved, as Lincoln's terms of peace were altogether inadmissible, &c.

Messrs. Henry and Phillips, however, deprecated hasty action on so important a subject, when further debate was cut off by a resumption of the special order of the day.

We are not surprised at the result of the peace mission. If such men as Hon. Wm. A. Graham, E. G. Read, of this State, and W. W. Boyce, of S. C., had been sent with Vice President Stephens, on that important business, some hopes of a good result might been entertained.

Our Commissioners to Richmond returned to Raleigh on Friday night last, and communicated the result of their mission to the Legislature, in *secret session*. We presume the people are not to know the *secret*, and perhaps care very little about it.

It is our firm conviction that President Davis and Lincoln will never make peace. The war will go on until one or the other party is completely exhausted, unless the people are permitted, in Convention, to act in the premises. There are some good and true men in our State Legislature, but, alas! they are in the minority—powerless, as too many members (elected as Conservatives) suffer themselves to be influenced by the outside pressure of public functionaries, regardless of the known wishes of their constituents.

Unless Providence interferes in behalf of a suffering and oppressed people, speedily, we fear we will yet witness a state of affairs in the Southern Confederacy, in comparison with which the scenes of the past four years will sink into utter insignificance.

LOCAL.—At the late meeting of the town Commissioners, Mr. Allen Spach was elected a member in place of Dr. Keehln, who was chosen at the regular election but declined to serve.

Charles Breitz, Esq., was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

Snow and hail fell, on Monday night and Tuesday to the depth of several inches.

RESCUED!—A few days since, about eight or nine miles from this place, a deserter and prisoner, en route for Greensboro', in the High Point stage, was released by a band of brother deserters, who emerged from the woods, and one of the number, with cocked pistol in hand, stopping the coach, demanded the prisoner, who was permitted by the guard to make good his escape. Resistance, in that case, it is admitted, would have been in vain, as the passengers in the stage were outnumbered by the rescuers, two or three to one.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Notice to furloughed soldiers. "Horse stolen."

JOHNSON'S COMMON SCHOOL ARITHMETIC.—We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Branson & Farrar, Raleigh, an Elementary Arithmetic, designed for Beginners, embracing the first principles of the science, by I. Johnson, A. M., Professor of Mathematics in Trinity College. It is neatly gotten up, and well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended.

☞ Owing to the length of Mr. Hanes' able speech, in the House of Commons of our State Legislature, for which we bespeak a careful perusal, we are necessarily compelled to abridge the letter of our Raleigh correspondent, as well as exclude other matter prepared for this week's paper, in order to give at least a brief summary of the news of the week, which is so anxiously looked for by everybody at this particular time.

☞ Mr. James, a printer, formerly associated with Mr. Bruner, of the Salisbury *Watchman*, died on the 3d inst., of pneumonia, after an illness of six days.

☞ Some time since, it was stated that the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* had passed Congress. Now it is positively asserted that the House has refused to pass the bill to suspend said great writ of liberty.

News of the Week.

Late and Highly Important.

A telegram announces the return of our Commissioners from Fortress Monroe. They had an interview with Mr. Lincoln and Secretary Seward, giving and receiving a free interchange of views. Mr. Lincoln still adheres to his ultimatum: a submission on our part to the laws of the United States; and as to slavery, he says the United States Congress has already disposed of that. Our Commissioners are preparing a report.

On Sunday morning Gen. Grant threw forward a portion of his forces on our right, across the Vaughn road and Hatcher's run. There has been no battle up to the latest account, but indications seem to be that there will soon be a general engagement on both sides. The Express of Saturday says that the roads are again in good condition. The enemy's railroad has been in constant action for a day or so—probably massing troops on their left. On our left there was furious cannonading on the 5th.

A riot is anticipated in New York should the late draft be enforced. Efforts are being made to have the city's quota reduced.

FROM GEORGIA.—It was currently rumored in Augusta on the 4th, that Sherman was twenty miles from Midway, and was advancing on that place in force.

Midway is the second station on the South Carolina railroad that side of Branchville. It is ten miles from Branchville and sixty eight from Augusta.

FROM WILMINGTON.—There was an engagement at Fort Anderson on Friday last. Two gunboats began shelling the fort, when it replied putting a shot through one of the boats compelling her to haul off. Two monitors were in the river but took no part. Six of our men were wounded—two severely.

Hon. Henry S. Foote arrived in Sheridan's lines on the 29th ult. Declining to take the oath of allegiance, he was sent to Washington under arrest.

C. C. Clay, Jr. arrived at a Confederate port.

Commissary General Northrope has not resigned as reported.

Gen. Lee has been nominated General-in-Chief of the armies of the Confederacy.

Application was made, on the 29th, by the Peace Commissioners, to pass through the Yankee lines. At a late hour in the afternoon of the 30th, an answer was returned, and on the 31st they passed the lines of both armies, and were greeted by the troops of both sides with vociferous cheering. They were to be entertained at Grant's headquarters that night, and next morning, February 1st, were to leave for Washington, accompanied by Col. Hatch, assistant agent for exchange of prisoners, as Commissioner's secretary.

A general truce was observed along the lines on th 30th.

Mr. Stephens' servant was permitted to accompany him, also Col. Hatch as secretary.—During the passage of the Commissioners the breastworks of hostile lines were crowded with troops witnessing the novel event.

The nomination of Gen. Lee as Commander in Chief, was confirmed by the Senate on the 31st, ult. Gen Lee has issued an appeal for the surrender of all cavalry arms and equipments in private hands.

Reports from the Valley represent that troops from Thomas' army are passing over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. This looks as if much danger is not anticipated from Hood's army.

FROM CHARLESTON.

A telegram from Charleston of the 31st says there has been some skirmishing along the line of the Combahee, but that no advantage was gained on either side. It seems the enemy advanced on the morning of the 30th, in considerable force of infantry and artillery from White Point, and drove our skirmish line three miles to King's Creek. Our infantry then advanced and drove the enemy back to White Point, re-establishing the skirmish line.

The enemy made a demonstration on our position at the pontoons over the Salketchie the afternoon of the 31st, without any result. The 20th army corps is said to occupy Robertsville, while a heavy force of artillery, infantry and cavalry are reported encamped near the junction of the Salketchie and old Union road.

It is reported that the Yankees burned McPhersonville on the night of the 30th.

Sherman's army is now only 50 miles from Charleston, and over half way from Savannah to that place.

President Davis has written a letter to several members of the Georgia Senate, who had requested his views on the subject, arguing against the policy of separate State action in regard to negotiations for peace. He believed it would be unsuccessful as well as unconstitutional.

Northern News.

The New York *Tribune* of the 26th says: An arrival from Pernambuco reports the Confederate Steamer, *Shenandoah*, destroyed several American merchantmen along the coast of Brazil; in consequence of which vessels bound for the U. S. were obtaining a British Register. The *Harriet Lane* at Havanna was found on fire on the 18th and she was towed ashore and scuttled.

There was a rumor current in Richmond, but not credited, that the French Minister at Washington has demanded his passport. Offence was supposed to be taken from the fact that both Houses of the U. S. Congress had passed a diplomatic appropriation bill, with an amendment virtually ignoring Maximillian.

Northern papers of the 24th and 25th received in Richmond. The main building of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. Numerous paintings and documents were consumed. The Museum and Library were saved—origin of the fire accidental.

San Francisco telegrams of the 23d, announce the arrival there of Capt. Beauregard, brother of Gen. Beauregard, in the capacity of private secretary to Ex-Senator Gwyn. He reports that Gwyn has been created Duke by Maximilian and appointed viceroy over five States ceded to France, in payment for troops furnished by the French government. The story is not believed further than that Gwyn has obtained certain land grants and authorized to encourage emigration from the Confederate State.

The steamship Atlanta, from Mobile Bay, with 1,000 bales of cotton, from the rebel government, arrived at New York on the 24th. General Dix has suppressed the rebel personals in the New York *Daily News*.

A Washington telegram says, the entire subject of the exchange of prisoners is now in the hands of Gen. Grant.

The House adopted Senate resolutions abolishing slavery within the limits of the United States. Salutes were fired in honor of the event in various cities.

The London *Times* says that none of the European powers would guarantee the independence of the Confederacy, as proposed, even with the abolition of slavery.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Wilmington *Carolinian* says South Carolinians are coming to Smithville, *via* the Georgetown road, and exchanging cotton and other commodities for gold and greenbacks.

The Court House in Asheville, probably the finest and largest one in the State, was consumed by fire on Saturday the 28th ult.—*Progress*.

THE PIEDMONT LINES.—The Salisbury *Watchman* of the 1st says:

It is confirmed that the tories are in some force at Piedmont Springs, in Burke county, but have made no advance. Reports as to their numbers are conflicting.

On the same subject, the Statesville *Express* says:

We understand that all the classes of Home Guard are ordered to report at once at Morganton, to meet an anticipated attack from Kirk's raiders.

SPRING CIRCUIT.

Arrangement of the Superior Courts by the Judges for the Spring Circuit:

1st Circuit Judge Read, Edenton.
2nd " " Howard, Newbern.
3rd " " Gilliam, Raleigh (exch'd)
4th " " Saunders, Hillsboro'.
5th " " French, Wilmington.
6th " " Shipp, Salisbury, (exch'd)
7th " " Heath, Morganton.
8th " " Osborne, Buncombe.

☞ "Random Thoughts on the Past, Present and Future of the American War," necessarily deferred till next week.

RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

RALEIGH, Feb. 3d, 1865.

* * Among the new subscriptions to the *Standard* and *Progress* this week, is the Executive Department of South Carolina. So it seems that "treason" can at last be tolerated by the chivalric Governor of the Palmetto State. The fact is that at this time there is far more "treason" in South Carolina than there is in the Old North State. She feels that she is justly charged by the enemy with being the most guilty of all the rebellious States, and, therefore, she fears their malice in the event of Sherman's advance.

But I suppose your readers want to know what the Legislature is doing, and what it is going to do. The greatest praise to which it is thus far entitled is that it has done but *little*. It is better that it should do nothing, than that it should do what some men desire it should do.

Gen. Fowle's resolutions, protesting against the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, passed their final readings in the Senate this week, after some discussion.

To-day the House passed through its second reading a bill levying a tax of ninety per cent. on all plaintiffs demanding specie on any execution which they may obtain against their debtors, the tax to be paid to the sheriff at the time the execution is obtained. Considerable discussion was had upon this bill by Messrs. Fowle, Sharpe, Caldwell and Dargan. It may be doubted whether this bill will afford the desired relief, and, besides, I have great doubts about its constitutionality.

Both Houses have agreed to adjourn on Tuesday next, the 7th inst., to meet again about the 18th of May. I think they ought, by all means, to meet again some time in March, and an effort will yet be made to rescind the order and fix an earlier day. Whether it will be successful or not depends more or less upon the report which our commissioners to Richmond may make on their return, which is looked for to night or to-morrow. Their report may control our action to some extent, but I have but little hope that it will enable us to call a Convention this session. North Carolina was dragged into this war under the lead of the Cotton States, and she seems (that is, her Legislature) to be determined to go out of it only under their lead. This I am opposed to. South Carolina and some other Cotton States have led us well-nigh to *destruction*, and I, for one, am opposed to following them any longer. Let the glorious Old North State lead for a while, as she deserves to, and let her Southern sisters follow her, for her ways—if her people could but—would be "the ways of wisdom and peace."

H.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Bryson introduced a bill to purchase cotton and cotton yarns for soldier's families and indigent persons, (appropriates $300,000 to do it, and the goods to be sold at low rates.) Also, a bill to authorize jailors to receive and keep military prisoners committed by the officers of the Confederate States service. The bill to suspend section 119, chap. 84, Revised Code, (imposing penalties for official delinquency,) passed its third reading; as, also, bills to prevent obstructions to the passage of fish up Newbegan creek, to declare the power of injunction, declaring the writ of injunction is of force in all cases where just compensation is not tendered for property impressed, save where the impressing agent gives security to pay such compensation, on final award, and where illegal tax is required,) and to prevent the sacrifice of property (by the collection of specie in satisfaction of executions.) A message was received from the House transmitting appointments as magistrates, all of which the Senate concurred, and added some more names thereto. The special order, a bill to impose a tax in kind for the relief of needy families of soldiers, passed its second reading.

In the Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Ross introduced a bill to increase the militia force of the State, in the event of imminent peril. (Proposes in such case to call out all men able to bear arms, age and exemption, State or Confederate, to the contrary notwithstanding.) The bill to restore the penalty ($100) imposed on Sheriffs for failure to serve and return process, (said penalty being now in abeyance,) was laid on the table, yeas 59, nays 36. Mr. McLean introduced a resolution instructing the State Congressional delegation to procure, if possible, such enactment as will guarantee a non taxable, six per cent. $1000 bond to each soldier serving out the war, and to the representatives of those fallen therein. Mr. Smith, of Johnston, moved to amend by adding to the proposed bounty one negro fellow, and resolution and amendment were referred. A number of engrossed bills and resolutions were received from the Senate, among them resolutions protesting against arming slaves, passed some days since in the Senate. On the passage of these on their first reading Mr. Waugh called for the yeas and nays. Mr. Brown, of Mecklenburg, moved the resolutions be laid on the table. Not agreed to, yeas 24, nays 69. The resolutions were then adopted, yeas 79, nays 11.

Fayetteville Observer.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, a bill was introduced to impose penalties for failure to work on public roads, ($20 for each offence.)

In the House, a bill was introduced concerning executions sales, (gives a stay of twelve months on *fi. fa.*)

A resolution was introduced instructing his Excellency, the Governor, to correspond with the Confederate authorities and make every effort to provide the Junior Reserves, said to be now in a suffering condition, with medical attendance, medicines, wagons, and ambulances, which resolution, after being so amended as to extend the provisions of the resolution to the Senior Reserves, was adopted.

In the Senate, on Thursday, the Committee on Military Affairs reported favorably upon a bill to give compensation to surgeons of Home Guards.

The unfinished business, being resolutions in regard to the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, was taken up and, after amendment, were passed by a vote of 30 to 11.

A resolution from the House, proposing to adjourn on Tuesday next, to meet again on the 3d Thursday in May, unless sooner called together by the Governor and Council, was concurred in.

An engrossed resolution, directing the Governor to try to make some arrangement with the Federal Government to give blankets, &c., to Federal prisoners at Salisbury for a like quantity furnished to North Carolina prisoners in Federal States, passed its second reading.

A bill was introduced to amend an act to increase the pay of witnesses and jurors.

On Friday but little of interest occurred in either house.

Messrs. D. G. Worth, N. Austin, D. F. Caldwell and J. V. Jordan are elected Directors of the Insane Asylum. There is still one vacancy.

On Saturday nothing of much importance transpired.

The Commissioners sent to Richmond returned on Friday night, but nothing, as yet, is known of the result of their mission.

In the Senate, there was a debate on the bill to authorize the sending of State troops beyond the limits of North Carolina.

In the Senate, on Monday, says the *Progress*, a bill was passed to authorize the widening of the guage of the Piedmont road. A bill was passed giving the Treasurer the room of the Comptroller in addition to the one now occupied by him—the Comptroller to occupy the room now known as the Geological Cabinet. The bill to authorize the Governor to send State troops beyond the limits of the State elicited considerable discussion, and the further consideration of it was at last postponed to the third Thursday in May next.

In the House, no business of public importance was transacted. Both Houses are to adjourn this morning to the third Monday in May.

Mr. Person offered a series of Resolutions calling upon the people of North Carolina to swear allegiance to the cause, and to renew their vows to prosecute the war—that we must fight until our independence be acknowledged, &c.

CONGRESS.

Hon. Wm. A. Graham was elected President *pro tem.* of the Senate, *ad interim* during the absence of Vice President Stephens and Mr. Hunter, President *pro tem.*

In the House, Mr. Declarmette, of Va., submitted the following preamble and resolution which he supposed in an able and elaborate speech:

Whereas, all nations have ever witnessed with alarm the establishment of any foreign power in their vicinity, and whereas the people of the Confederate States as well as the people of the United States, have ever cherished, the resolve that any further acquisition of territory in North America by any foreign power would be inconsistent with their prosperity and development, and whereas the invasion of Mexico by France has resulted as alleged in the establishment of a Government founded in the consent of the governed, nevertheless, we have reason to believe, ulterior designs are entertained against California and other Pacific States which we do not regard as the less for the war now waged against us, so they have maintained their independence by their own strength, therefore, the Congress of the Confederate States do

Resolved, That the time may not be distant when we will be required to defend our hearth and the independence of the Confederate States with those most interested in the vindication of the principles of the Monroe doctrine, to the expulsion of all seeming violations of those principles on the continent of North America. Referred to the committee on Foreign Affairs. The House then resolved itself into secret session.

Mr. Smith, of Alabama, resumed his seat on the 31st, after publishing a card to his constituents in which he says the question of opening informal negotiations for peace with the enemy having assumed shape, agreeable to his own, as he believes, to their wishes, he shall waive all personal considerations and resume his seat in the House of Representatives this day.

Mr. Ewing submitted resolutions relative to the State Representatives of Missouri and Kentucky, which, after debate, were laid upon the table. The House then resolved in secret session.

The Senate agreed to a reference of the conscription bill to the committee of Conference.

The House bill for the sequestration of the property of persons liable to military service, who have departed or shall depart, from the Confederate States, without permission, passed yeas 12, nays 7.

A large public meeting on the night of the 31st, held in the House of Delegates, was addressed by Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy and several members of Congress from Virginia and Georgia. Great enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting broke up at a late hour. All the speakers declared in favor of the prosecution of the war until independence was achieved.

RICHMOND, Feb. 1.—The Senate passed the Senate bill to abolish the office of all Quartermasters and Commissaries on duty at posts and depots, and to provide for the appointment of bonded agents in their places. The act also repeals all authority to detail persons between 18 and 45 in said departments.

In the House Mr. Gholson submitted the following:

The people of the Confederate States have ever been and are now ready to make peace honorable to both parties, yet it is the judgment of the House that while we should manifest a willingness to treat for peace, we should not omit to vigorously prepare for war, &c.

On the 2nd, the House passed the Senate bill increasing the compensation and emoluments of the President and increasing the salaries of the officers and employees of the government at Richmond.

The Senate on the 3rd further discussed the negro bill. Messrs. Orr and Maxwell strongly opposed the employment of negro soldiers.—Mr. Burnet declared in favor of the use of negro soldiers to aid in gaining our independence. Deferred till Saturday next.

In the House on the same day, Mr. Gholson's resolutions were taken up. Mr. Atkins submitted a substitute, proposing at once to put one hundred thousand negroes in the field; and in order to render them effective, and immediately interest our soldiers, the government should purchase the slaves, and give to each soldier in the army a slave to be his absolute right of property, &c.

Mr. Conrad opposed the resolutions.

On the 4th, in the Senate, the negro question was further discussed several hours without result. The bill to establish a flag for the Confederate States passed without opposition.

OBITUARY.

Died, on the 5th of January, 1865, LEWIS M. CHARLES, son of J. C. and Hannah Charles, and a member of Co. C., 1st Regiment N. C. Junior Reserves. He was taken sick on a march, and left at a house where he was cared for until death relieved him from all the troubles and hardships of this cruel war.

Both officers and private bodies their heartfelt sympathies, and acknowledge the loss of a good soldier, who did his whole duty, when able, without a murmur.

A FRIEND.

Equity Land Sale.

BY virtue of a decree of the Court of Equity, for the county of Yadkin, made at Fall Term, 1864, I shall sell on the premises, on

Saturday the 4th of March next,

a certain tract of Land lying on the Yadkin River, in the said county of Yadkin, adjoining the lands of Wm. Hargrove and others, belonging to the heirs of Lewis Hall, deceased, containing about one hundred and ten acres.

Terms, nine months credit. Bond and good security required.

N. L. WILLIAMS, C. & M. E.

Jan. 1st, 1865. 40-4w.

BROKE JAIL.

$400 REWARD.

ON the night of the 19th inst., four prisoners confined in the Forsyth jail, effected their escape. Their names are as follows:—WM. WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, IAN WILLIAMS, and ENOCH BROOKS.

They were from Yadkin County, placed in this jail awaiting their trial for resisting the officer in arresting deserters and for being parties in the killing of two citizens some two years ago.

The above reward will be given for the apprehension of the four or $100 for each.

H. MASTEN, Sheriff Forsyth County.

Winston, Jan'y 20th, 1865.

To Hire,

TWO NEGRO GIRLS, 10 and 12 years old, for the ensuing year, for them their board and clothes. For information, apply at this Office.

February 2, 1865.

SPEECH OF MR. HANES, OF DAVIDSON.

Delivered in the House of Commons of North Carolina, January 20th 1865, on the following resolutions introduced by him.

Resolutions on the subject of a General Convention of the Confederate States.

Whereas, The present system of legislation by the Congress of the Confederate States, by which the most oppressive and unconstitutional laws have been passed from time to time, by the votes of irresponsible representatives from Missouri, Kentucky and other States, some of whom have never seceded from the Government of the United States, but have at this time their full quota of men in the armies of our enemies, and who therefore have no constituents upon whom the laws passed by them can operate, and some of whom dare not even show themselves in the States which they profess to represent, is an outrage to which no free people ought to submit;

And, Whereas, Article V. of the Constitution of the Confederate States provides, that "Upon the demand of any three States, legally assembled in their several Conventions, this Congress shall summon a Convention of all the Confederate States, to take into consideration such amendments to the Constitution as the said States shall concur in suggesting at the time when the said demand is made; and should any of the proposed amendments to the Constitution be agreed on by the said Convention voting by States—and the same be ratified by the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States or by Conventions in two-thirds thereof—as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the general Convention—they shall thenceforward form part of the Constitution. But no State shall, without its consent be deprived of its "equal representation" in the Senate.

Therefore Resolved, That the Joint Select Committee on Confederate relations be instructed to frame and bring in a bill calling a Convention of the people of this State, or submitting the question to them so as to enable them to assemble in Convention—if a majority of them should desire to do so, for the purpose of co-operating with any two other States in calling a Convention of all the Confederate States for the purpose of amending the Constitution, so as to provide that hereafter the representatives of any State or States, whose territory is in the hands of the enemy so that the Confederate laws cannot be enforced therein, shall not, during the continuance of such occupation by the enemy, be permitted to vote upon any question of legislation, but shall have only such rights as are allowed to the delegates from the Territories of the Confederate States, and of considering such other amendments as the said three States shall concur in suggesting.

Resolved further, That State sovereignty being the principle on which North Carolina and the other States withdrew from the Federal Union, the States composing the Southern Confederacy are sovereigns, and the Confederate Government is only their agent, and subject to their control, and that the States in their sovereign capacity, in General Covention assembled, have the right to negotiate a peace with the government of the United States, without consultation with the President of the Confederate States, but subject only to the subsequent ratification of the several States in their respective State Conventions.

The above resolutions having been read, Mr. HANES said:

MR. SPEAKER:—In submitting these resolutions for the consideration of the House, I desire to avail myself of the privilege of discussing them and their kindred topics, with that boldness and freedom which should ever characterize the debates of the representatives of a free people, when assembled for the purpose of legislating for them in trying and perilous times.

On a memorable occasion during the period of the rebellion of her American colonies, the great Earl of Chatham said "in the British House of Lords, that "he rejoiced that the Americans had resisted; that three millions of Englishmen thus submitting to be made slaves would be fit instruments for enslaving the remainder." On another memorable occasion a few years later, another eminent British statesman, who never received justice at the hands of contemporaries, but whose memory will be hallowed by the admiration of posterity—Mr. Fox—spoke in the British house of Commons on the subject of an answer to the King's speech, using this remarkable language: "I abstract the speech of the King as the speech of the Minister, and I undertake to say that there is not a single fact set forth in his Majesty's speech which is not a falsehood."

If such liberty of speech was allowed in the British Parliament three quarters of a century ago, how much greater liberty may I venture to take in this, the high noon of the nineteenth century, as the representative of American freemen, especially when I remember that the freedom of debate and the freedom of the press is guaranteed to me by two written Constitutions, that of the State, and of the Confederate States.

I shall therefore, proceed to discuss boldly, and express my opinion fearlessly upon every great question of public policy which may have been rendered necessary by the dreadful war which for the last four years has been sweeping over this devoted land like a tornado, contaminating or destroying everything which came within its vortex, and which has spread a pall over the whole land—has brought mourning into every family—has rendered hundreds of thousands of hearth-stones desolate—has filled the land with the maimed and the disabled with widows and orphans, and with squalid poverty.

In these resolutions, Mr. Speaker, I propose the call of a State Convention for the purpose of co-operating with the Conventions of other States in calling a Convention of the Confederate States, before the expiration of a certain specified subsequent to the Confederate Constitution by reasonable of the provisions of Article V. of said Constitution, and in the preamble. No argument, therefore, is necessary to prove that the powers of such Convention extend to the making the proposed amendment subject to the subsequent ratification of the several States. The only argument necessary to be made here is to prove the necessity of such amendments.

Much abject, oppressive and unconstitutional legislation has been done within the last three years by the Confederate Congress.—Nearly all the sacred rights of the States have been trampled in the dust. Commencing at the very first session of the Congress which assembled at Montgomery, Ala., on the 4th of February, 1861, and which framed the Provisional Constitution, the Congress of the Confederate States has been guilty of a series of usurpations of power, and of violations of the rights of the States, which, if submitted to, will result in the destruction of the sovereignty of the States, and in the establishment of a consolidated despotism, more odious than that from which we have separated.

Dissolution.

The firm of Hall & Bro. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Those indebted to the late firm will please call and settle their accounts with Mr. Hall, who is authorized to receive payment.

Jan. 1, 1861. 3t

Notice.

The undersigned will continue the business at the old stand, and will be pleased to see all his old friends and customers, and as many new ones as may favor him with a call. He will keep constantly on hand a full supply of Groceries, Provisions, Liquors, Tobacco, Cigars, &c., &c., which he will sell as low as the lowest for cash or approved credit.

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